



# PRESS RELEASE

## House Armed Services Committee

### Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 18, 1999

CONTACT: Maureen Cragin

Ryan Vaart

(202) 225-2539

### **PRESS ADVISORY**

#### **HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING IN NORFOLK**

The Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a hearing on retention of military personnel on Monday, February 22 at 10 a.m. at Bachelor Officer Quarters, Ely Hall, located at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. The hearing is open to the public.

The subcommittee is in the process of considering personnel related aspects of President Clinton's fiscal year 2000 defense budget request. As the drawdown of the U.S. military comes to an end, retention has become a serious problem. The purpose of the hearing is for members of the subcommittee to hear first-hand from service members on the reasons many are leaving the military. The subcommittee will hear from representatives of each service, including junior and mid-grade enlisted members, junior officers, and spouses. The hearing is the first in a series of four subcommittee hearings to address recruiting and retention problems facing the armed services.

#### **Media Information:**

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Cmdr. Mike Andrews or Ms. Beth Baker at Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs office (757) 322-2853.
- On the day of the hearing, press should arrive at the Norfolk Naval Station Tour & Information Office located on Hampton Blvd in Norfolk no later than 0830 for check-in.
- Directions: The Norfolk Naval Station can be reached by exiting off I-64 onto I-564 in Norfolk. I-564 runs into Admiral Taussig Blvd. Proceed on Admiral Taussig Blvd to the end/Hampton Blvd. Turn left on Hampton Blvd. The Tour & Information Office is located on the right just before the first traffic light.

#### **Public Information:**

- The hearing is open to the public.
- Members of the general public that do not possess a military or dependant's identification card, may obtain a visitor pass for the hearing by presenting a valid photo ID to the sentry at gates 3A or 4.

**Witness List:****Panel 1:**

Personnel representing each service, each with less than four years of service (“first-termers”)

**Panel 2:**

Personnel representing each service, each having reenlisted at least once (mid-grade or “second-termers”)

**Panel 3:**

Junior officers from each of the services

**Panel 4:**

Spouses of military members

**Background Information:**

In previous years, the subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee have conducted similar hearings throughout the U.S., and the information learned from the witnesses directly influenced many of the provisions contained in the annual defense authorization act.

The jurisdiction of the House Armed Services Committee covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the significant national security portions of the annual operating budget of the Department of Energy. DOD’s annual budget in excess of \$260 billion involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted primarily within the context of the committee’s consideration of the annual defense authorization bill.

The committee divides its responsibilities between five standing subcommittees (Military Procurement, Military Research and Development, Military Readiness, Military Installations and Facilities, and Military Personnel) and two special oversight panels (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and Merchant Marine).

The Military Personnel Subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Steve Buyer of Indiana and is comprised of 18 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for the annual authorization of funding for military forces and authorized strengths; integration of active and reserve components; military personnel policy; compensation and other benefits; and related legislative oversight

# # #